



St Bernadette's Primary School



Ready Respectful Safe



September 2025 Newsletter

Update your contact details

Please let us know about any changes to your:



Email



Telephone number



Address

Outdoor Learning and Play

Please ensure your child has the appropriate clothing for our ever changing Scottish Weather.



Attendance Procedure in Falkirk Council

Please contact the school office on 503400 before 9.15am on the day of your child's absence. The system will prompt you to leave a message on the absence line. If your child is absent from school and no letter or telephone call has been received to explain their absence, you will receive a text requesting you contact the school. This system gives you the added peace of mind of knowing that if you have not had a text then your child has arrived safely in school. As this is a centralised system, a mobile phone number will display and the message will include the school name and contact number. **Please respond to this promptly.**

General Illness

As per NHS guidance, if your child is displaying sickness or stomach upset, your child **must not** return to school until they are 48 hours clear of symptoms. If your child falls ill during the school day, we will contact you via telephone.

Please ensure all contact details are up to date.

P7 Residential Trip

Deposits are now **overdue**. Can we please ask that parents pay this on IpayImpact as soon as possible. If we do not pay these deposits we may lose our place.

Please remember that there is access to funding to help families with financial difficulties. Please contact Mrs Savage, in strictest confidence, for more information.

Late coming in school

There are a number of children coming into school late. School starts at **9am**, if your child arrives after the bell has gone he/she will be marked as late. When children are late it causes disruption to the class and has an effect on your child's learning.



Through The GATE!!

Be on time for school every day!



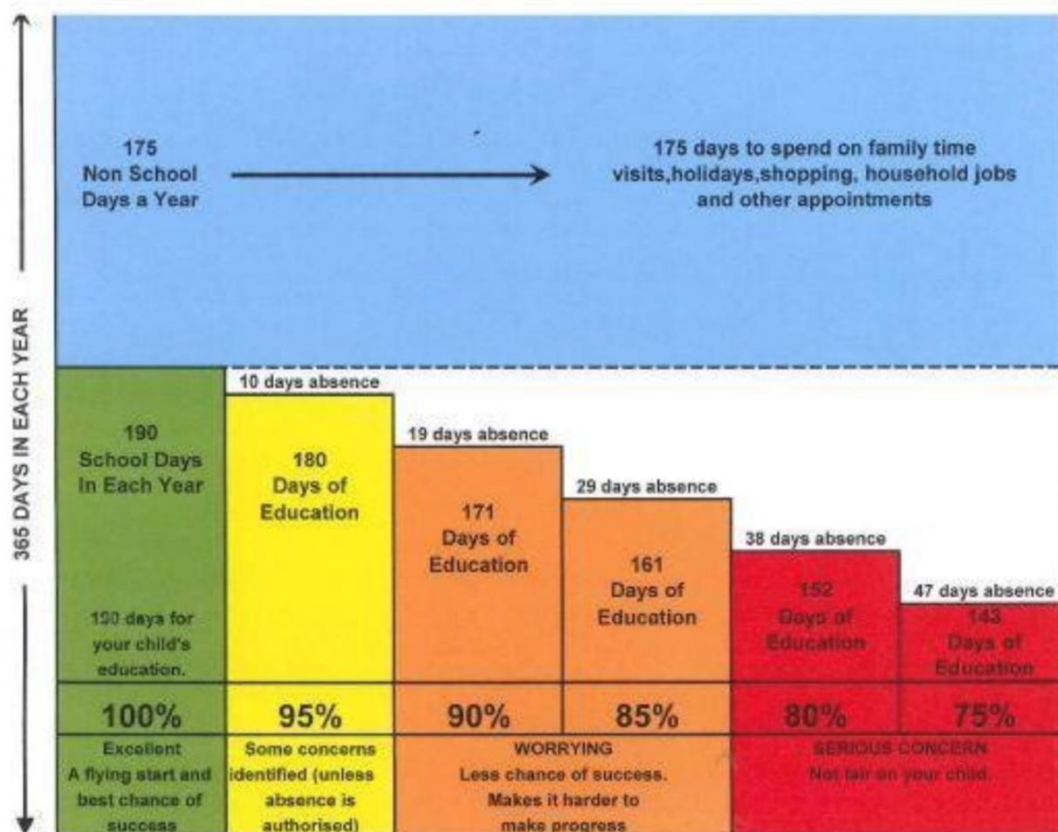
That's two school weeks

Lost Minutes = Lost Learning

Attendance Procedure in Falkirk Council

Please contact the school office on 503400 before 9.15am on the day of your child's absence. If you wish, you can leave a message on the school's answering machine. **Please do not message the class teacher with absence/appointments messages.** If your child is absent from school and no email or telephone call has been received to explain their absence, you will receive a text requesting you contact the school. This system gives you the added peace of mind of knowing that if you have not had a text then your child has arrived safely in school. As this is a centralised system, a mobile phone number will display and the message will include the school name and contact number. **Please respond to this promptly.**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!			
ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALS APPROXIMATE DAYS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY WEEKS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11 ½ weeks	230 lessons
65%	67 days	13 ½ weeks	270 lessons



Staffing News

Congratulations to Mrs Gallacher who, following successful interview, has been offered a secondment to Education Scotland to be the National Advisor for RERC. Mrs Gallacher will be leading a curriculum review and refresh for RERC across Scotland. This is an amazing opportunity, and we keep Mrs Gallacher in our prayers as she undertakes this essential work. This secondment may last up to 23 months. She will however be continuing to teach in St. Bernadette's every Monday and alternative Friday.

Therefore, there will be a change in teacher for P5/6. Mrs Martin and Mrs Podmore have both agreed to increase their working pattern. The plan is for Mrs Martin to teach P5/6 on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon. Mrs Podmore will teach P5/6 on a Wednesday and Friday morning.

We are still awaiting final confirmation of Mrs Gallacher's start date but it is expected to be before the October holidays.

parentsportal.scot

Have you signed-up to parentsportal.scot yet? Parentsportal replaces the traditional school bag run allowing parents/guardians of children attending school to sign forms and receive important information online. You can sign-up at www.parentsportal.scot

We recommend all parent/carers sign up as you can report absences, see report cards, respond to permission slips, update your child's record, make school payments and much more! You can do all of this in one central place with a single sign-on. Go to www.parentsportal.scot to sign-up.

Houses

St Bernadette's will continue into 2025-2026 with 4 houses; Braemar, Dunvegan, Eilean, Donan and Lochranza. All children will be assigned a house along with all teaching staff.

House Points will be awarded in the form of a House Ticket. Each Friday, P7 House Ambassadors will collect the House Points from each class, collate and count them, giving Mrs Gray the final totals. These weekly and eventually monthly totals will be displayed in the main corridor. The weekly house winner will receive an extra play on a Monday at 10.15, weather permitting, or at a later date in the same week. All children and staff will be given a coloured badge to wear which represents their house

Reasons for awarding a House Point

- Any acts based on the school values; Friendship, Appreciation, Love, Kindness, Co-operation, Honesty, Forgiveness, Respect.
- High levels of effort in class.
- Good examples of following school rules.
- Good listening skills.
- Following instructions.
- Extra-curricular achievements.

Seasons for Growth

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives.

At St Bernadette's Primary we recognise that life can be difficult for a while when changes happen in families through death, separation, divorce or other reasons. Our children have been through many changes over the past few years and some may have experienced the loss of a loved one. We are offering a very successful programme called Seasons for Growth to our P1-P3 pupils. This programme is a chance for children to learn with a small group of children who have experienced similar issues. The programme will help children to learn new skills to cope with change and loss. Please contact Mrs Lorenzetti if you would like more information.



Primary 1 Falkirk Herald Souvenir Edition

The Falkirk Herald is delighted to once again be producing a special Primary One souvenir edition on 6th November 2025 marking your son or daughter's all-important step up to primary school. The special supplement will feature full colour pictures of Primary 1 classes from schools across the area. Falkirk Herald are delighted to be able to offer you the chance to purchase copies of the newspaper at a discounted price. These copies will be delivered to the school on the day of publication for your child to bring home.

You can purchase copies via their contact centre on 0330 403 3004 or via the website

falkirkherald.eventbrite.co.uk at a reduced cost of £1.45 per copy (normal price £1.80) before 29th October.

Please note that website orders are subject to additional fees which are charged by Eventbrite. Our phone lines are open 9.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Earrings in PE

Just a reminder that for health and safety reasons pupils should remove all jewellery on PE days. If your child has a new piercing this must be covered with micropore tape. Staff cannot remove children's earrings, we ask that this is done at home.



St. Bernadette's Flu Immunisation Champions

We are very proud of our "Flu Immunisation Champions" who delivered a presentation recently at assembly. They have been selected to talk about the flu immunisation and the benefits of receiving it. Hopefully any other children can approach them and ask questions or share their concerns about receiving the flu immunisation. We were delighted that Annie; our Flu Immunisation nurse attended the assembly too. If the Flu Immunisation Champions are asked any questions that they are unsure of we will direct them to Annie! **Flu Immunisation day is 7th November 2025.**



QUICK. EASY. PAINLESS. JUST A WEE SCOOSH.

The flu vaccine is the safest and easiest way to help protect yourself against flu. All it takes is a wee scoosh up the nose.

Flu can be serious, so remember to get your vaccine consent form signed by a parent or carer and return it to school.

The flu vaccine will be offered in school on:

7th November 2025

Find out more at nhsinform.scot/childflu or scan the QR code.

Public Health Scotland

Healthier Scotland
Scottish Government

NHS
SCOTLAND

School Uniform

It is great to see so many children wearing school uniform. We are delighted that parents co-operate with the school in encouraging their child to follow the school's dress code. Football colours are not allowed in school as they can lead to incidents of rivalry.

The wearing of school uniform is encouraged as it helps to:

- Develop a school community spirit
- Improves school security by making non-pupils more easily identifiable
- Allows pupils to be easily identified when out of the school, e.g. trips
- Enhances the school's reputation within the community; and
- Minimises rivalry and bullying amongst pupils that can arise from, e.g. the wearing of designer clothing

The appropriate clothing and footwear for PE is a t-shirt, preferable plain white, shorts and gym shoes with non-marking soles. These are necessary for health and safety reasons and your co-operation is requested to ensure that pupils are equipped to participate in the PE lessons.

Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled.



Please remember we have pre-loved uniform at the main entrance. If your child outgrows their uniform and it is still in good condition, please donate to our pre-loved table. All parents/carers are welcome to browse this from 9am – 3.15pm every day. Any donations shall be made to Mary's Meals.



YOUR IDENTITY IS OUR PURPOSE

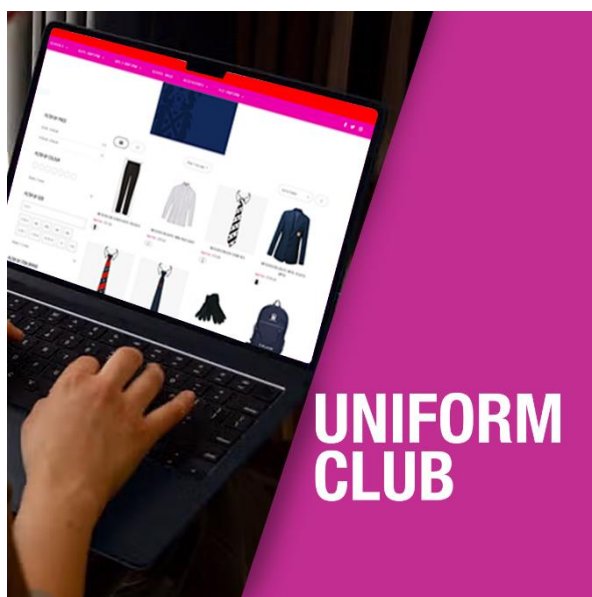
**REDUCED PRICE ORDER WINDOWS
NEW DATES ANNOUNCED!**

We're making it easier (and more affordable) for parents to get their child's schoolwear sorted.
Take advantage of our 15% discount during these exclusive order windows:

 **Autumn Window: 6 -19 October 2025**

 **Winter Window: 15 December 2025 - 11 January 2026**

 **Spring Window: 6 April - 17 May 2026**



Parents can join our uniform club and spread the cost of back-to-school throughout the year. The easiest way to start saving now for the next back-to-school order, with weekly & monthly options, the choice is theirs.

Weekly membership from £2.00
Monthly membership from £5.00
One-off top up from £5.00

For example parents could put away at least £5 each month and have £60 for ordering next year.

[Sign up now](#)

School Car Park

Can we please remind all parents/carers to be respectful of others when using our School Car Park. The carpark has a one-way system in place for the safety of our children. Some cars are continuing to access the top carpark by turning right on entry to the carpark, rather than driving around the main part of the carpark first. This may lead to an avoidable accident. The school cannot be held to account if cars are damaged by drivers accessing the top carpark in the wrong way. Can we please ask that the disabled bays are used only for those who need them.

In addition, no parents should be using the staff carpark or bus bay to drop off or collect children.

Allergies

For the health and safety of all pupils please ensure that your child is not provided with any nut products at school. Some children are bringing products such as Peanut Butter/Nutella sandwiches and Dubai chocolate.

We have pupils and staff who are severely allergic to peanuts/nuts. Peanuts/nuts do not have to be eaten by an allergic person to cause an allergic reaction; they can be ingested or contaminate tables, hands

etc. Any peanut/nut products will be returned home in packed lunch boxes unopened.

All Falkirk Council school lunch menus do not have nut products as standard.

Further information can be viewed here:

<http://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/what-is-anaphylaxis/signs-and-symptoms>

Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.



Rag Bag Collection

Thank you for all your Rag Bag donations. Our last collection weighed 157Kg, raising £31.40 for school funds. All donations are most welcome, please place the bags directly into our Rag Bag bin (beside the cycle shed) or pass to your child to hand into the school. There are bags available in the main reception. We Collect:

- All Clothing
- Paired Shoes (tied together)
- Handbags, bags, ties & belts
- Household linen & towels





RECYCLE AND RAISE MONEY!

Dear Parents and Guardians!

I wanted to reach out to share an exciting initiative that we have launched to help raise money for the school!

We have partnered with a company called Denner UK, to start a **NO COST recycling program** to collect empty inkjet cartridges, and we are asking you all to get involved by spreading the word to family and friends.

Simply have a root around at home, or work, for any unwanted printer cartridges (empty or full!) and then bring them into school. We have a recycling box on site for you to pop them in, and each time that gets full we organise a **FREE collection** from Denner UK.

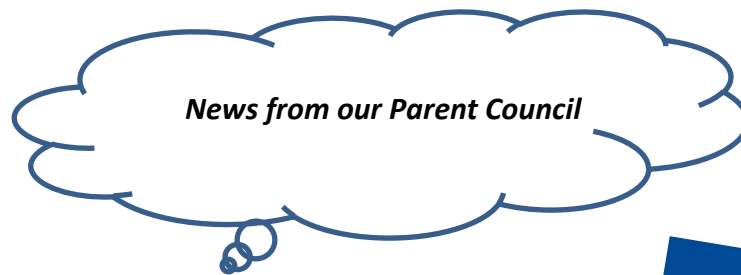
They then process them at their London facility and for every cartridge collected, they pay the school up to **£1 per cartridge**, providing a fantastic opportunity for us to raise funds for the school's projects and initiatives. To put this into context, the majority of households will be using inkjet printers, and each box can hold in excess of 400 of these meaning that for every full box that is returned it could **raise as much as £400** for the school!

Not only does this help generate financial support, but it also encourages environmentally friendly practices both at school and at home.

Please just reach out if you have any questions and we look forward to receiving all your unwanted printer cartridges!

Thanks in advance for your support on this easy and environmentally friendly program to help us raise much needed funds for the school!

denner
UK



The Parent Council meet once every 6 to 8 weeks. It is not a particularly big commitment, but we do need some extra members to help support the work we do.

The Parent Council has been able to support the school by funding the cost of a new hall projector as well as underwriting the cost of the Bug Club subscription amongst other things. Whilst we are fortunate to have very generous families that contribute to the monies the Parent Council use to support the school, we do need members to help organise how we can best support the school, where the funds are spent as well as being a voice for the children and school within the Local Authority.



New members are certainly needed and would be more than welcome. If you are interested in joining then drop a note to this email address: stbernadettesparentcouncil@gmail.com

Fundraising Group

Our Parent Council Fundraising Group is a friendly, informal team that organises fun events and raises money to support our school community.

The first meeting of the year takes place this **Thursday 2nd October at 7.30pm in Tim Hortons**. Everyone is welcome, especially new members, as we always need fresh ideas and helping hands when parents move on with their children.

Getting involved doesn't take much time- just a little help at events or occasional meetings makes a big difference.

We hope to see you there!

Achievements

Has your child celebrated an achievement out of school?
e.g. Dancing, Football, Tae Kwon Do? We would love to hear
about it so we can share the good news in our next Newsletter!

Please email the school at
stbernadettesprimaryschool@education.falkirk.sch.uk
and let us know all about it!

Mobile Phones

If your child brings their mobile phone to school can we please ask that you reiterate at home, that it must be switched off and in their school bag throughout the school day. If any mobile phone is seen during the day or disrupts the class it shall be confiscated by the Class Teacher and given to the Headteacher who will then contact the parent/carer and arrange for the parent/carer to collect it from school, it will not be given back to your child.

Head Lice

We would encourage you to check your child at regular intervals to prevent the spread of head lice. If our child becomes infected, we would appreciate if you could inform us as soon as possible. All information provided will be strictly confidential.

No Smoking/Vaping

Can we please gently remind parents/carers that there is NO Smoking/Vaping in school grounds.



School Website

Please check the school website regularly as this will be a valuable source of information for parents. The address is <http://stbernadettes.edusite.co.uk/>

Bluesky

Please follow us on: [@stbernadettesps.bsky.social](https://stbernadettesps.bsky.social) — Bluesky



Please remember that there is access to funding to help families with financial difficulties. Please contact Mrs Savage, in strictest confidence, for more information.

Keep up-to-date with Parish News on: <http://www.stbernadette.rcstanded.org.uk/current>
and <https://www.facebook.com/stbernadettelarbert>

Diary Dates

13th October – 24th October – School closed – October holidays

7th November – Flu immunisation day

11th & 13th November – Parent Consultations (more info to follow)

28th November – School closed to pupils – In Service day

22nd December – 2nd January – School closed – Christmas holidays



PFFA Community & Fundraising Events



**OCT
7**

**COFFEE MORNING
10:00-11:30**

Enjoy a cake and a cuppa in our newly refurbished community room.

**OCT
29**

**SPOOKY MOVIE NIGHT
6:00-8:00**

Bring you blankets and snacks for a spooky movie after dark.

**NOV
28**

**STRATHCARRON
HAMPER**

Donate your items by this date for our Christmas hampers.

**DEC
12**

**FAMILY EVENT
CHRISTMAS
1:00-3:00**

Enjoy stories, crafts and treats with a festive feel.

**MAR
20**

**STRATHCARRON
BIG TEA
10:00-12:00**

Join us for a cake and a cuppa as we raise funds for Strathcarron Hospice.

**MAR
27**

**SCIAF FUN DAY
9:00-3:00**

A whole school dress down day with lots of fundraising fun.

**MAY
22**

**FAMILY SUMMER
PICNIC
1:00-3:00**

Join us in the playground for a family picnic and games.

**JUNE
5**

**PUPIL CARWASH
9:00-11:00**

Have your car expertly(!) washed by the pupils as we raise money for our chosen charities.



Please pop these dates in your calendar.

Full details will be sent in advance of each event.

All members of the St Bernadette's family are most welcome.